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HOUSE BILL NO. 672

Offered January 11, 2006

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A BILL to amend and reenact § 33.1-12 of the Code of Virginia, relating to general powers of the Commonwealth Transportation Board; naming of highways and bridges.

Patron—Wardrup

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 33.1-12 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 33.1-12. General powers and duties of Board, etc.; definitions.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board shall be vested with the following powers and shall have the following duties:

(1) Location of routes. - To locate and establish the routes to be followed by the roads comprising systems of state highways between the points designated in the establishment of such systems.

(2) Construction and maintenance contracts and activities related to passenger and freight rail and public transportation.

(a) To let all contracts to be administered by the Virginia Department of Transportation or the Department of Rail and Public Transportation for the construction, maintenance, and improvement of the roads comprising systems of state highways and for all activities related to passenger and freight rail and public transportation in excess of \$2 million. The Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner shall have authority to let all Virginia Department of Transportation-administered contracts for highway construction, maintenance, and improvements up to \$2 million in value. The Director of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation shall have the authority to let contracts for passenger and freight rail and public transportation improvements up to \$2 million in value. The Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner is authorized to enter into agreements with localities, authorities, and transportation districts to administer projects and to allow those localities, authorities, and transportation districts to let contracts for highway construction, maintenance, and improvements within their jurisdictions. The Director of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation is authorized to enter into agreements with localities, authorities, and transportation districts to administer projects and to allow those localities, authorities, and transportation districts to let contracts for passenger and freight rail and public transportation activities within their jurisdictions. The Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner and the Director of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation shall report on their respective transportation contracting activities at least quarterly to the Board.

(b) The Commonwealth Transportation Board may award contracts for the construction of transportation projects on a design-build basis. The Board may annually award five design-build contracts valued no more than \$20 million. The Board may also award design-build contracts valued more than \$20 million, provided that no more than five of these latter contracts are in force at the same time. These contracts may be awarded after a written determination is made by the Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner or the Director of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, pursuant to objective criteria previously adopted by the Board regarding the use of design-build, that delivery of the projects must be expedited and that it is not in the public interest to comply with the design and construction contracting procedures normally followed. Such objective criteria will include requirements for prequalification of contractors and competitive bidding processes. These contracts shall be of such size and scope to encourage maximum competition and participation by agency prequalified and otherwise qualified contractors. Such determination shall be retained for public inspection in the official records of the Department of Transportation or the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, as the case may be, and shall include a description of the nature and scope of the project and the reasons for the Commissioner's or Director's determination that awarding a design-build contract will best serve the public interest. The provisions of this section shall supersede contrary provisions of subsection D of § 2.2-4303 and § 2.2-4306.

(c) For transportation construction projects valued in excess of \$100 million, the Commonwealth Transportation Board shall require that a financial plan be prepared. This plan shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (i) a complete cost estimate for all major project elements; (ii) an implementation plan with the project schedule and cost-to-complete information presented for each year; (iii) identified revenues by funding source available each year to meet project costs; and (iv) a detailed cash-flow analysis for each year of the proposed project.

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HB672

59 (3) Traffic regulations. - To make rules and regulations, from time to time, not in conflict with the
60 laws of the Commonwealth, for the protection of and covering traffic on and the use of systems of state
61 highways and to add to, amend or repeal the same.

62 (4) Naming highways *and bridges*. - To give suitable names to state highways *and bridges* and
63 change the names of any highways *or bridges* forming a part of the systems of state highways, except
64 such ~~roads~~ *highways and bridges* as have been or may hereafter be named by the General Assembly.
65 *The Department of Transportation shall place and maintain appropriate markers indicating the names of*
66 *highways and bridges named by the Board or by the General Assembly. The costs of producing, placing,*
67 *and maintaining these signs shall be paid by the counties, cities, and towns in which they are located.*
68 *No name shall be given to any state highway or bridge unless and until the Commonwealth*
69 *Transportation Board shall have received from every local governing body of every locality within*
70 *which any portion of the facility to be named is located a resolution of that governing body requesting*
71 *such naming.*

72 (5) Compliance with federal acts. - To comply fully with the provisions of the present or future
73 federal aid acts. The Board may enter into all contracts or agreements with the United States
74 government and may do all other things necessary to carry out fully the cooperation contemplated and
75 provided for by present or future acts of Congress in the area of transportation.

76 (6) Information and statistics. - To gather and tabulate information and statistics relating to
77 transportation and disseminate the same throughout the Commonwealth. In addition, the Commissioner
78 shall provide a report to the Governor, the General Assembly, the Commonwealth Transportation Board,
79 and the public concerning the current status of all highway construction projects in the Commonwealth.
80 This report shall be posted at least four times each fiscal year, but may be updated more often as
81 circumstances allow. The report shall contain, at a minimum, the following information for every project
82 in the Six-Year Improvement Program: (i) project description; (ii) total cost estimate; (iii) funds
83 expended to date; (iv) project timeline and completion date; (v) statement of whether project is ahead of,
84 on, or behind schedule; and (vi) the name of the prime contractor. Use of one or more Internet websites
85 may be used to satisfy this requirement. Project specific information posted on the Internet shall be
86 updated daily as information is available.

87 (7) Policies and operation of Departments. - To review and approve policies and transportation
88 objectives of the Department of Transportation and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, to
89 assist in establishing such policies and objectives, to oversee the execution thereof, and to report thereon
90 to the Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner and the Director of the Department of Rail and
91 Public Transportation, respectively.

92 (8) Cooperation with other agencies and local governments.

93 (a) To cooperate with the federal government, the American Association of State Highway and
94 Transportation Officials and any other organization in the numbering, signing and marking of highways,
95 in the taking of measures for the promotion of highway safety, in research activities, in the preparation
96 of standard specifications, in the testing of highway materials and otherwise with respect to
97 transportation projects.

98 (b) To offer technical assistance and coordinate state resources to work with local governments, upon
99 their request, in developing sound transportation components for their local comprehensive plans.

100 (9) Transportation.

101 (a) To monitor and, where necessary, approve actions taken by the Department of Rail and Public
102 Transportation pursuant to Chapter 10.1 (§ 33.1-391.1 et seq.) of this title in order to ensure the efficient
103 and economical development of public transportation, the enhancement of rail transportation, and the
104 coordination of such rail and public transportation plans with highway programs.

105 (b) To coordinate the planning for financing of transportation needs, including needs for highways,
106 railways, seaports, airports, and public transportation and to set aside funds as provided in
107 § 33.1-23.03:1. To allocate funds for these needs pursuant to §§ 33.1-23.1 and 58.1-638, the Board shall
108 adopt a Six-Year Improvement Program of anticipated projects and programs by July 1 of each year.
109 This program shall be based on the most recent official Transportation Trust Fund revenue forecast and
110 shall be consistent with a debt management policy adopted by the Board in consultation with the Debt
111 Capacity Advisory Committee and the Department of the Treasury.

112 (c) To recommend to the General Assembly for their consideration at the next session of the General
113 Assembly, objective criteria to be used by the Board in selecting those transportation projects to be
114 advanced from the feasibility to the construction stage. If such criteria are enacted into law, such
115 objectives shall apply to the interstate, primary, and urban systems of highways.

116 (d) To enter into contracts with local districts, commissions, agencies, or other entities created for
117 transportation purposes.

118 (10) Contracts with other states. - To enter into all contracts with other states necessary for the
119 proper coordination of the location, construction, maintenance, improvement and operation of
120 transportation systems, including the systems of state highways with the highways of such other states

121 and, where necessary, to seek the approval of such contracts by the Congress of the United States.

122 (11) Use of funds. - To administer, distribute, and allocate funds in the Transportation Trust Fund as
123 provided by law. The Commonwealth Transportation Board shall ensure that the total funds allocated to
124 any highway construction project are equal to total expenditures within 12 months following completion
125 of the project. However, this requirement shall not apply to debt service apportionments pursuant to
126 § 33.1-23.3 or 33.1-23.4.

127 (12) Financial and investment advisors. - With the advice of the Secretary of Finance and the State
128 Treasurer, to engage a financial advisor and investment advisor who may be anyone within or without
129 the government of the Commonwealth, to assist in planning and making decisions concerning the
130 investment of funds and the use of bonds for transportation purposes. The work of these advisors shall
131 be coordinated with the Secretary of Finance and the State Treasurer.

132 (13) The powers of the Virginia Aviation Board set out in Chapter 1 (§ 5.1-1 et seq.) of Title 5.1
133 and the Virginia Port Authority set out in Chapter 10 (§ 62.1-128 et seq.) of Title 62.1 are in no way
134 diminished by the provisions of this title.

135 (14) To enter into payment agreements with the Treasury Board related to payments on bonds issued
136 by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

137 (15) Outdoor theaters. - By regulation:

138 (a) To prevent the erection of moving picture screens of outdoor theaters in such a manner as to be
139 ordinarily visible from any highway;

140 (b) To require that a sufficient space is left between any highway and the entrance to any outdoor
141 theater to prevent congestion on the highway; and

142 (c) To require that outdoor theater entrances and exits are adequately lighted and marked.

143 The term "public transportation" or "mass transit" as used in this title means passenger transportation
144 by rubber-tired, rail, or other surface conveyance which provides shared ride services open to the general
145 public on a regular and continuing basis. The term does not include school buses; charter or sight-seeing
146 service; vehicular ferry service which serves as a link in the highway network; or human service agency
147 or other client-restricted transportation.